

To: Renewable Advisory Board

From: Janice McClanaghan,  
Energy Office

Date: February 2, 2005

Subject: Update

The following is the February 2005, monthly update for the Renewable Energy Fund:

### **Supply Programs**

#### **Wind**

- 1) URI – The students will be meeting with URI staff on February 4 to discuss the status of the project.
- 2) Portsmouth Abbey Wind – A second meeting was held with the neighbors and meetings with key individual neighbors are being planned. Discussions with the Town have been positive, but there is a lot more discussion at the Town level due to the fact that Lefteris Pavlides has been meeting with the Town Economic Development committee on wind development in Portsmouth. The Abbey is considering requesting a place on the March agenda for the zoning review board. Internally for the Abbey, there are still two more approvals, the Board, slated for the end of February and the monastery, in early March. Vestas has been asked for a quote, and is receiving information on siting and production – electric data, wind data, etc. A student is doing a correlation of the wind data being measured at the site to data collected at the Newport Airport. Narragansett Electric has been contacted regarding interconnection issues.
- 3) Raytheon – Raytheon is requesting the Fund provide a grant for 80%, or \$36,863, of a \$46,079 wind feasibility study to be conducted by Boreal in conjunction with others. A draft proposal is attached; a final proposal will be circulated at the March 8, 2005 meeting.
- 4) Roger Williams University – Lefteris Pavlides has met with Economic Development Committee and Town Planner in Portsmouth and Renewable Energy Committee including the Town Planner, in Bristol. He has also recruited and trained students in drawing wind speed contours on maps (in order to make the point graphically to town authorities that higher towers are better for wind) and in doing photosimulations (for a second site at Portsmouth Abbey and the proposed Bristol and Portsmouth sites.)
- 5) Offshore Collaborative – The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC), General Electric and the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Wind and Hydropower Technologies are forming a collaborative to work on the full range of issues associated with the development of offshore wind resources, particularly far offshore in deep water off New England. The collaborative will bring together representatives from the academic, research, industry, NGO, and state and federal government sectors to identify key issues and barriers surrounding offshore wind development and to strategize about ways to address the issues in order to develop a sustainable offshore wind industry in the United States. Bob Grace has been working with MTC to have Stephan Grilli of URI be included as an active member of the collaborative.

- 6) Avian Issues – The US Fish and Wildlife Service is recommending that wind developers complete a three-phase consultation process before making any binding land or power purchase agreements: (1) scoping of wildlife issues; (2) conduct studies with technical assistance from the Service in design; and (3) Service reviews studies and makes recommendations to resolve issues. The Service is proposing this process based on the consultation model used for FERC licensing of major hydropower projects. The Service has reportedly been sending letters to developers stating that they must conduct 3 years of avian studies before construction of wind projects. MTC and NYSERDA have initiated discussions with the Service to try to reduce negative regulatory impacts on developers. CESA has been representing the state funds' interests at these meetings. See attached documents from CESA.

#### Wave

- 7) Energetech – Point Judith – A meeting will be held on February 14 among the developer and the three state funds involved in the project to discuss the permitting and funding issues. Senator Reed's office has indicated that requests for appropriations for the Federal 2006 budget are due on February 15. It is unlikely that the project will meet the permitting completion requirements set out by Senator Reed's office in order to qualify for inclusion in the current Federal budget cycle.

#### PV

- 8) Solar on Schools – Entech Engineering has provided a separate update.
- 9) PV RFP – No update. The PV RFP has not been re-issued due to the strategic planning process being in progress.
- 10) Low Income – The issue of low income renewable energy programs has moved to center stage as the Fund is being eyed as a possible source of revenue for low income energy assistance. Proposed program concepts have focused on solar heating (dhw, radiant space), rather than PV electricity generation, as the preferred class of technology, due to its greater cost effectiveness. The creation of low income renewable energy programs is being folded into the current strategic planning process.
- 11) Solaris – The Slater Center's Board has voted to invest \$150,000 in this RI solar technology company.

#### Hydro

- 12) Royal Mills Hydro – The redevelopment of the hydro project at Royal Mills continues, with the FERC permit submittal planned for May. As well, the developer of the project is in contact with Narragansett Electric over interconnection and power sales issues.
- 13) Rentricity – Final report is attached and Rentricity will make a presentation at the February 8, 2005 meeting. A request will be made to the Fund for a repayable loan for funding of follow-on design efforts at one proposed project location and exploratory permitting efforts at another.

#### **Customer Demand Programs**

- 14) Renewable Energy Customer Aggregation (RECA) RFP and Proposal to Large Customer Program - The RECA Aggregation and the developer are still negotiating the purchase price

for the RECs, but will be finalizing these negotiations in the coming weeks. The next step will be internal approvals by individual RECA members.

- 15) State House Green Power Purchase – The RFP will be posted March 6. A standard contract will be developed to accompany the RFP.
- 16) GreenUp – As of January 31, 2005 – there have been a total of 1518 GreenUp signups, no change from December 31, 2004. Marketers, Narragansett Electric and Smartpower will be meeting on February 3 to discuss ballot design and marketing/sales for 2005.

### **Outreach Programs**

- 17) Smartpower – Smartpower has revised its plan for outreach and public education in support of GreenUp and other Fund efforts (see attached). A teleconference was held to discuss the plan with Smartpower on January 26. A subcommittee has been formed to deal with matters regarding outreach and public education and will have regular update phone calls with Smartpower.

### **Administration**

- 18) Strategic Plan – Janet Keller and Bob Grace are developing a Draft Strategic Framework for the Fund. The Strategic Framework define how the Fund's money is being spent over the next several years, as well as how Fund activities will support the RES. Bob Grace will provide an update on the strategic planning process at the February 8 meeting, including a proposal to use a trained facilitator with a background in clean energy issues to make the discussion of the Draft Framework as productive as possible. While the Draft is not sufficiently developed for circulation at this time, the table of contents is attached.

## **Draft Strategic Framework**

### **Table of Contents**

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